DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEW D. ZACHARY DATE 2/18/83
EXEMPTION(S)
CLASSIFICATION MARKINGS ☐
UNCLASSIFIED ☒
DECLASSIFIED ☐
AUTHORITY FOR CHANGES OR EXEMPTIONS
UNCLASSIFIED

(18)

RM/R

April 29, 1961

Dear Mr. McCormack:

I have received your letter of April 20, 1961 which requests information as to the probable cause of the unfortunate accident suffered by the Boeing 707 aircraft operated by Sabena Belgian World Airlines at Brussels on February 15, 1961.

The investigation by the Belgian authorities of this disaster is still in progress. Representatives of the Belgian carrier and a technical team of the Boeing Airplane Company have been participating in some aspects of the official investigation. Information available to the Department does not indicate that a probable cause of the accident has been determined and no official statement concerning the probable cause has come to the attention of the Department.

The Department has been informed, however, that as recently as last week, the Belgian Investigation Commission visited the Boeing Airplane Company at Renton, Washington, in connection with the official inquiry into the circumstances that led to the accident. Prior to its departure from Belgium for the meeting with Boeing officials at Renton, the Belgian Investigation Commission requested the assistance of the United States Civil Aeronautics Board and the Federal Aviation Agency on the accident investigation. Both agencies expected to make contact with the Belgian authorities to determine the degree of assistance required in this matter.

Our Embassy at Brussels has been requested to keep the Department informed of all developments in the investigation.

I shall be glad to inform you as soon as information is received which has a bearing on the probable cause of the accident.

Sincerely yours,

FAA

Brooks Hays
Assistant Secretary

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E MESSAGE CENTER
CONTROL
IN 1961 OUT

The Honorable
John W. McCormack,
House of Representatives.

APR 28 1961 PM

UNCLASSIFIED

TRC:AV:gP:arros:ams
4/26/61

TRC - [illegible]

WE - Mr. Miller
(draft)